GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1388
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2003
TRAINING TO SPORTSMEN OF BACKWARD REGIONS
RATNA SINGH;SHIVAJI MANE

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to provide special training to sportsmen belonging to backward regions of our country to encourage them and to develop their skills to international standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the difficulties in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA)

(a) to (c): Sports is a State subject and it is the responsibility of the State Governments to promote games and sports in their State. However, to augment the efforts of the States, the Government of India, through the Sports Authority of India is undertaking Sports Promotion in the country.

The Scheme of Special Area Games (SAG) has been specifically conceived to scout and nurture genetically gifted children from the backward areas, especially from hilly, coastal and tribal areas of the country. At present, there are 17 SAG Centres functional in the country, where 1251 children from the rural and backward regions of the country are scientifically trained to excel in national and international level competitions.

The Scheme has already produced a number of outstanding sportspersons scouted from backward areas. These include Limba Ram, Shyam Lal, Lalremsanga, Lalremliana (Archers), Merystella Tirkey, Vimala Kujur, Helen Soy (Hockey Players), Zoram Thanga, Dingko Singh (Boxers) etc. who have won medals for the country at National and International events.